



ROKEBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PART OF STOWE VALLEY MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Dear Parents/carers,

What a year it has been! This certainly isn't my usual way of ending the school year – no assemblies, discos or parties, just a letter outlining what school will look like for you and your children in September.

School will feel different in September – there is no getting around that but we will endeavour to make school as welcoming, positive and inviting as we can. If you haven't already, please go to our website and look at your child's transition page. This page will have a video from your child's new class teacher showing them a few aspects of the classroom as well as a leaflet.

Please find attached a FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) document that will hopefully answer some of the questions you have about September. If you have any further questions please email RokebyFamilySupport@stowevalley.com and we will answer them for you.

For some children and staff, this will be their last week at Rokeby. I would like to wish our year 6 children the best of luck in their new schools. I know they will do us all proud and succeed in all they do. I'd also like to wish all of our other children a happy and safe summer.

To all of our children – you are living through such unusual times and you are doing brilliantly. I know it feels strange and unusual but remember that everyone is feeling the same.

To all our parents and carers – thank you for your ongoing support throughout what has been one of the strangest times for our children. Please continue to be kind to one another and support one another.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff who have been incredible over the last 16 weeks. They have worked tirelessly to provide communication, online learning and in school teaching for your children.

Rokeby Primary School continues to be a wonderful school and this pandemic has shown the solidarity that lies within this community. I couldn't be prouder.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on the email address above over the summer should you need support.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer. We look forward to seeing your child on Wednesday 2nd September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mrs James".

Mrs James

FAQs – For Parents

What will social distancing look like?

In September, we will be maintaining consistent groups called 'bubbles', these will be Key Stage bubbles. Where possible, we will encourage and promote social distancing but it would be dishonest of me to promise that social distancing between pupils and pupils or pupils and staff will be possible all of the time. We will be educating the children on the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning and regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the school.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classrooms, pupils will be sat facing the front, this may be at desks or for the younger children, on the carpet as well. Children will be using school equipment within their 'bubble' and have individual stationery in pencil cases. This equipment will be named and for their use only. Classroom based resources used can be shared between 'bubbles' and are cleaned regularly between uses. Any shared resources, such as PE equipment, used between different 'bubbles' will be meticulously cleaned or left unused for 48 hours (72 hours for plastic items).

During breaks and lunchtimes, key stage 'bubbles' will have their own playground and have staggered morning playtimes, staff will encourage children to play individually or to play games that don't require close contact. However, there will be breaches of this due to children's understanding and we cannot guarantee that children will remain 1 metre apart throughout the day.

What is a bubble?

The advice is to keep consistent groups of children, these will be Key Stage bubbles, and will be kept apart from other 'bubbles' in school as much as possible. They will have the same outdoor space (which is not shared with another bubble) and their own 'bubble' equipment. 'Bubbles' will have their own toilets, sinks, stationery, cloakrooms, hand-gel, learning resources, books, games and toys. As you will appreciate, this is not going to be completely reliable and bubbles will 'burst' at times such as the use of the big playground for outdoor PE or shared art or science equipment that will be cleaned meticulously between bubbles.

Will staff be given PPE?

Staff will be provided with PPE, including aprons, masks, gloves and medical waste bags for first aid and intimate care purposes. PPE will not be provided for general wear around school. Government advice does not recommend it for use in schools. If staff wish to wear PPE for general use, then they must provide their own.

Will children be given PPE?

PPE will not be provided for general wear around school. Government advice does not recommend it for use in schools. If parents wish to send their child in in PPE then that is their choice, it will not be provided by school.

How will collection and drop off work?

Each class will have a designated door to be dropped off and picked up from, this will be your classroom door. Drop off time will be between 8.45 and 9.00 and collection between

3.00 and 3.15pm, for all classes to spread out the flow of parents collecting their children. We ask that you do not congregate with other parents of families on the playground and use the handwashing facilities on the playground if needed.

How will my child be kept safe at break and lunchtime?

Key stage 'bubbles' have staggered morning playtimes and will use the same playground for both morning and lunchtime play, away from another bubble. Children will be encouraged to play games independently or that do not involve physical interaction. We can not guarantee children will remain 2 meters apart.

We will only be offering deli bags as our lunch option for Autumn term 1. This is to keep visitors at the kitchen to a minimum. A member of staff will collect the deli bags and deliver it to their classroom. Children will have lunch in their classrooms, except EYFS, and then go onto the playground with their bubble's adult.

What will my child need to bring?

Your child may bring: a coat, hat, books, their lunch/water bottle book bag or backpack, and for the older children, their mobile phone. All other equipment will be provided by school, including handwash, hand sanitiser and stationery.

What will my child need to wear?

Your child must wear their school uniform.

Does my child have to come?

Yes, the Government have stated that school attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term. Any parent who doesn't bring their child may risk being fined.

What will my child be learning?

The children will be learning key skills from their previous year group during the first part of the Autumn term, in reading, writing and maths. Children will continue to have access to the wider curriculum – subjects such as music, art and Geography. Alongside this their will be a significant focus on mental health and wellbeing strategies while they settle back into school life. We know that some children and families will be very anxious, and we want to ensure that the children settle back into a regular school day routine.

Will the Nursery and Reception classrooms be the same as usual for my child?

The Government have not yet released the EYFS specific guidance for September but as soon as they do we will act accordingly. However, we will ensure that the classrooms are as engaging, vibrant and inviting for our EYFS children as we can, ensuring a smooth transition into the school environment and learning routine.

How will you encourage frequent hand washing and hygiene?

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands, on entry to school and after each activity and after going to the toilet. We have purchased additional hand sanitiser and portable sinks so that each class has enough areas to clean their hands. As well as having wall mounted hand sanitisers before/after internal doors. Cleaning has been increased in the school. We

will have a cleaner on site between 12.15pm and 1.30pm each day, as well as 2 cleaners working from 3.30pm-6.30pm, each day.

Will parents be allowed into school?

Unfortunately not at the moment. Parents will be allowed on to the playground to drop off and collect their child. They must use the cone marking and stay back from the classroom, door at a distance of 1 metre plus, where possible. All meetings/conversations with parents that would usually require them to come in will be done via telephone and or zoom. We are planning for the first parents evening in October to be via this platform.

Will assemblies and gatherings happen once children are back at school?

There will be no assemblies taking place for the foreseeable future. There will be no mass gatherings of any kind, this includes Friday celebration assemblies and shared learning afternoons.

What should I do if my child needs testing for COVID-19?

To access and arrange a test visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or for medical advice phone NHS 111.

What additional measures are in place to keep my child safe?

- Electronic registers only so children and staff do not need to move unnecessarily around school
- Temperature testing for children who appear or feel unwell.
- Additional hours of cleaning taken on to keep the school well cleaned as well as cleaning throughout the day by cleaners and also by teachers and TAs.
- Minimising contact with other bubbles where possible
- Operated a one way system around school so staff do not have to pass as often as usual.
- Doors will be propped open where it is safe to do so to minimise contact with handles.
- Additional portable sinks purchased for on the playground.
- Each 'bubble' will have their own sinks/toilets and outside space
- Hand sanitiser on entry to the school and available around the school.
- Only admin staff and head teacher allowed in the offices.
- Cleaning products available in classrooms.
- Hand sanitiser and wipes will be stationed next to photocopiers to use before and after the photocopier.
- PPE provided for first aid, cleaning and intimate care purposes for staff.
- Deli bags provided for children's lunch so the lunch hall business is minimised – children will eat in the classrooms.
- There will be no face to face staff meetings. All meetings will be done 1:1 or electronically.